

Columbia River Hatchery Reform (Preliminary Summary)

Overview

- Hatchery reform is just one part of an all-H management strategy being implemented to achieve recovery of listed species
- The Lower Columbia River Recovery Plan calls for all of the H's (Hatchery, Harvest and Habitat) to take actions that will achieve recovery
- Actions implemented by different H's will take effect at different rates (i.e. Hatchery most immediate, Habitat long-term) which will require a phase approach to implementation
- Need to balance recovery plan objectives, HSRG alternatives and expected U. S. v. Oregon outcomes to achieve TRT recovery criteria
- Applies to all species but fall Chinook farthest along at this time
- Managers objective is to maintain hatchery production to achieve sustainable fisheries while supporting recovery objectives

Hatchery

- Weirs will need to be establish and operated to provide WDFW and ODFW the ability to restrict the number of hatchery-reared fish spawning in natural spawning locations
- Changes to hatchery production may be necessary depending on how each population is expected to benefit recovery (i.e. primary, contributing or stabilizing)
- Production may be reprogrammed by changes number of smolts released or moving production to different locations to take advantage of increased harvest or survival rates
- Hatchery reprogramming for fall Chinook is expected to have minimal impacts to total production, as follows:

2008	24.5 million fall Chinook smolts
2011	26.1 million fall Chinook smolts
2029	28.4 million fall Chinook smolts

Harvest

- Continue implementation of selective sport and commercial fisheries and investigate opportunities to implement mark selective fisheries
- Implementation of mark selective fisheries can benefit recovery in two ways:
 1. Increase harvest of hatchery produced fish
 2. Decrease mortality rate of naturally-produced fish handled in fisheries
- For fall chinook the earliest that mark selective fisheries can be implemented is 2011 when all hatchery fall Chinook returning to lower Columbia River hatcheries are marked with an adipose fin clip

Habitat

- Improvements in habitat productivity will be necessary to achieve recovery goals
- Lower Columbia River recovery plans will be evaluated to determine if habitat actions recommended in these plans are adequate to result in populations achieving recovery goals
- Fall Chinook populations in lower Columbia River tributaries are classified for their contribution to recovery goals as follows:

<u>River Basin</u>	<u>Recovery Goal Designation</u>	<u>Habitat Improvement</u>
Grays/Chinook	Primary	41%
Elochoman/Skamokawa	Primary	19%
Mill/Abernathy/Germany	Contributing	12%
Youngs Bay	Contributing	TBD
Big Creek	Primary	30%
Clatskanie	Primary	12%
Scappoose	Contributing	35%
Lower Cowlitz	Contributing	4%
Upper Cowlitz	Stabilizing	NC
Toutle	Primary	17%
Coweeman	Primary	13%
Kalama	Stabilizing	5%
Lewis	Primary	17%
Salmon Creek	Stabilizing	NC
Washougal	Primary	18%
Clackamas	Contributing	TBD
Sandy	Contributing	TBD

TBD – To Be Determined

NC – No Change